

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the nation's consumer protection champion. The FTC works **For The Consumer** to prevent fraud, deception and unfair business practices in the marketplace.

The FTC provides the information consumers need to spot and avoid fraud and deception.

Consumers can contact the FTC for free information on a wide range of issues, including:

- Advertising Claims
- Buying, Leasing and Renting Cars
- Credit
- Debt Collection
- Exercise Equipment
- Franchises
- Funeral Services
- Identity Theft
- Investment Schemes
- Lending Services
- Online Shopping
- Scholarship Scams
- Sweepstakes
- Telemarketing
- Work-at-Home Schemes

and more. . .

Toll-Free 1.877.FTC.HELP (1.877.382.4357)
www.ftc.gov

The FTC enforces federal laws that protect consumers.

The FTC provides free information to help consumers spot and avoid fraud and deception in the marketplace.

The FTC wants to hear from consumers, whether they want to get information or file a complaint.

For information on FTC enforcement actions, contact the FTC Office of Public Affairs at 202.326.2180.

Consumer Sentinel

Consumer Sentinel is a secure, online cybertool and complaint database available only to civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the United States and abroad. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Canada's PhoneBusters, the Better Business Bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission and many other organizations have entered Internet, telemarketing, identity theft and other fraud-related complaints into Sentinel. The FTC manages and maintains Consumer Sentinel.

Consumer Sentinel allows law enforcers to share data about fraud. In addition to the database of consumer complaints, Sentinel offers its law enforcement members a variety of tools to facilitate investigations and prosecutions, including:

- electronic alerts about particular companies and practices
- information to help agencies coordinate effective joint action
- an index of audiotapes of fraudulent telemarketing sales pitches
- analysis of fraud trends

The media can use the public website of Consumer Sentinel (www.consumer.gov/sentinel) to:

- see trends in consumer fraud and the types of complaints consumers file
- get up-to-date facts on consumer frauds such as Internet cons, prize promotions, work-at-home schemes and telemarketing scams
- learn how U.S., Canadian and Australian law enforcers work together with private sector companies and consumer organizations to combat fraud

ID Theft Data Clearinghouse

The FTC maintains Consumer Sentinel's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, the nation's repository for identity theft complaints. The FTC established the Identity Theft Toll-Free Hotline, **1.877.IDTHEFT (1.877.438.4338)** and the ID Theft Website (www.consumer.gov/idtheft) to give identity theft victims a central place to report their problems and receive helpful information.

